



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

THEMIS KLARIDES
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5247
GAE Committee
February 22, 2016

Chairmen Jutila and Cassano, Ranking Members Smith and McLachlan and Members of the GAE Committee, the House Republican Caucus would like to thank the Committee for raising House Bill Number 5247: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts.

I believe that the underlying bill has merit and is definitely worthy of the committee's consideration. In addition, we would like the Committee to consider another related issue that has to do with the State Auditors' biennial audits of state agencies.

Currently, the State Auditors' Office attempts to audit each state agency once every two years. In virtually every state agency audit, the Auditors find areas where agencies are deficient in following laws and processes. Here are some of the examples of things disclosed in the reports:

- We lack paperwork for well over half of our state employees on FMLA.
- DSS benefits have gone to people who are deceased.
- Vacation and comp time are insufficiently tracked.
- Abuses of overtime occur.

The Auditors are only allowed to report issues and make recommendations; they have no enforcement authority. Therefore, there are no consequences to agencies that are not following state law. I am concerned that there is no process in place to follow up on these kinds of issues.

Therefore, the House Republican Caucus submitted a proposal to the GAE Committee that would require the committee of cognizance to hold a public hearing specifically for the purpose of listening to the commissioner talk about

the recommendations from the Auditors' reports and the steps the agency is taking to fix the problems.

I urge the GAE Committee to include in the underlying bill the concept proposed by the House Republican Caucus. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to improve transparency in our state government.